

## THE VALUE OF DYING

*by Joseph McMoneagle*

*Joe McMoneagle is a professional remote viewer. Through his company, Intuitive Intelligence Applications, Joe provides consulting services in parapsychological research and development. His clients include research institutions and numerous private companies engaged in mining archeology, investments, and oil and water exploration. He is also a consultant to The Monroe Institute in a variety of capacities.*

In his presentation at the Professional Seminar, Joe gave a personal account of his own NDE's (near-death experiences) and offered an overview of the research and theory surrounding the NDE phenomenon.

In 1970, Joe had a classic experience meeting all five of the accepted criteria for an NDE:

1. Feelings of extraordinary peace and contentment
2. Detachment from physical body
3. Entering Darkness
4. Appearance of exceptionally beautiful white light
5. Being enveloped or falling into the white light

Joe noted that there are two basic types of NDE situations: with warning and without warning. In the first instance, predispositions owing to cultural and religious or family programming are possible. For NDE's without warning, this kind of predisposition is much less likely. In citing research models for examining the meaning or source of NDE's, Joe related Gabbard's and Twemlow's exploratory hypotheses:

1. Cultural or religious programming
2. Birth models
3. Neurophysiological models
4. Psychological models
5. Paranormal models

The mix of data available on NDE's makes it unlikely that any of the models will fit the diversity of experiences. Joe felt that many researchers tend to have looser rules and become less coherent and specific in their approach when evaluating subjective experiences, and suggested that the reverse approach (stringent evaluation) would be preferable, it is a mistake, Joe contended, to think of NDE's generically. The philosophical impact of the NDE on the individual's life is impossible to judge externally. Experiences differ tremendously depending

on whether there is warning or no warning. Expectation of specific occurrences or no expectations contribute to what happens. Joe advanced the following premises as givens: A. The experience changes the individual's view of reality; B. It can be temporarily blocked but not denied; C. If it is blocked (not dealt with), the overall effect is perceived as destructive; and D. The knowledge gained thereby is undeniable. An NDE leads to the realization that one is more than physical and has a spiritual nature which can transcend physical reality (similar to macro experiences associated with the *Gateway* program). During an NDE many persons meet a figure which can be considered either as the specter of Death which is always over our shoulder, or as a protecting angel.

Joe offered a review of his 1985 NDE experience following a massive coronary, in which he alternated between being in his body and out-of-body, then travelled through a dark tunnel into a white light, only to return to his body when his heart was restarted. During a later triple bypass operation, Joe encountered three distinct entities, two of whom knew Bob Monroe. Joe asked them for criteria by which to validate his experience and, among other things, received the following: 1. He was allowed to return to his physical body and experience the surgical closing procedure, without pain. 2. He was promised a quick recovery, and not only did he regain consciousness in 45 minutes, but went through the next two recovery periods so rapidly that he arrived in the surgical care ward 12 to 15 hours ahead of the norm. Within two days, he was up and walking, and was back home working at his desk on only the fourth day following his triple by-pass.

Basic to Joe's experience was a personal realization of the cohesiveness of all living things. He passed through a "life review" during the NDE which he described as an opportunity to perceive all the "wasted" energy and experiences of the lifetime (all the times he had failed to pay attention. This perception was available without any judgment as to right or wrong). In this review, the living emotion is separated from the acts themselves. One carries forward the energy essence of the acts. As a metaphor, Joe said we are born into the physical life as a blank cassette. We keep the sounds but discard the cassette on exiling from life.

Joe summarized by saying that physical existence is an opportunity to become awakened, which means to pay attention to how one interacts. It is not so much a question of what you do but how you do it. Being prepared by TMI programs and having an NDE with warning made his second experience totally different from the first (in which he went directly into the white light, but was sent back because he didn't belong there). NDE's, Joe maintained, won't be understood by science until we determine more specific ways of collecting data, differentiate between types of NDE'S, and respect subject confusion about what they've experienced. The issue is focus, Joe asserted. We are responsible for our actions and their effects on others.

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